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From: Kapla, Robert

Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 11:50 AM

To: 'Fite, Nina M' <FiteNM@state.gov>; 'Everett Wakai' <Everett.Wakai@trade.gov>

Subject: Letter regarding US humanitarian demining assistance

Dear Ambassador Fite and Everett,

Please see attached, FYI.

Sincerely,

Robert



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA

2100-2108 16th STREET N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20009

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June 29, 2020

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Chairwoman

House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related
Programs

HT - 2 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Ranking Member

House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related
Programs

2406 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Rogers,

I understand the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs has begun to consider appropriations for Fiscal Year ('FY') 2021. On behalf of Angola, I thank the Subcommittee for its continued funding of humanitarian demining programs in Angola. President Joao Lourenco has committed Angola to clear all mines by the end of 2025, and US assistance will continue to play an enormous role in our ability to achieve that important objective.

I offer the following background and updates for your consideration as the Subcommittee deliberates:

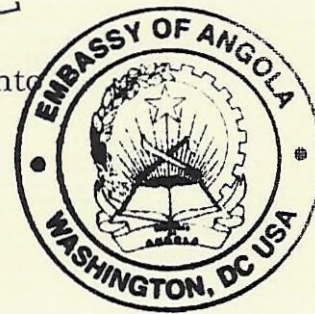
- Angola signed the convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (the "Convention") in 1997. The Convention entered into force for Angola in 2003. Since then, we have worked to fulfill our obligations under the Convention to destroy all anti-personnel mines.
- Angola has destroyed over 300,000 unexploded landmines and other unexploded ordnances since signing the Convention.
- The United States is by far the largest donor country to demining in Angola. Since 1995, the US has provided over \$ 134 million toward such programs. This critical support has directly led to the clearance of more than 26,000 landmines and 46,900 pieces of unexploded ordnance throughout our country.
- Since 2007, Angola has reduced the number of landmine-effected areas from 3,600 to 1,220. Several of our provinces, including Malanje, Namibe and Huambo are now virtually mine-free thanks to the support of the international community and the tireless efforts of many on the ground including the Halo Trust and the Mine Advisory Group.
- Working with our international partners, Angola undertook an extensive non-technical survey of its confirmed and suspected mined areas in 2007. As a result, we were able to reduce the area yet to be cleared of mines from 221 million square meters to 123 million square meters.
- Between now and 2025, Angola has budgeted \$ 41.5 million to support demining efforts.
- Angola's progress has received international recognition, including from Prince Harry during his September 2019 visit to Angola. After visiting what was once a minefield near Huambo – through which his mother Princess Diana famously walked in 1997 – Prince Harry commented on "the transformation that has taken place from an unsafe and desolate area into a vibrant community of local businesses and colleges".
- While we are proud of our progress, considerable work remains. In a 2014 survey conducted by the Angolan Government, we discovered nearly 90,000 Angolans living with disability caused by landmines or other explosive devices. Eradicating all landmines from Angola will ensure this number does not increase.

President Joao Lourenco is deeply committed to strengthening Angola's strategic and economic relationship with the United States. With your help, a landmine-free Angola will provide greater opportunities for our tourism sector to grow, our domestic agricultural production to flourish, and our country to unlock its true economic potential for generations to come. This is the "New Angola" envisioned by our President, and it is our hope it will translate to significant opportunities for American trade and investment.

Thank you, again, for your continued funding of humanitarian demining efforts in Angola. I invite you to accompany me on a future visit to Angola so I can show you first-hand the tremendous progress we have made with your support.

Sincerely yours,

Joaquim do Espirito Santo
Ambassador



CC: The Honorable Kay Granger (R-TX)
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations